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UN - Middle East: Fedayeen incursions into refugee camps have affected the UN relief program.

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UN - MIDDLE EAST: THE UN RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY {UNRWA} IS CONTINUING TO PROVIDE AID IN THE REFUGEE CAMPS OF LEBANON, BUT ITS STATUS HAS BEEN AFFECTED ADVERSELY BY THE RECENT FEDAYEEN INCURSIONS.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] "OUTSIDERS" HAVE MOVED INTO THE CAMPS SINCE VARIOUS FEDAYEEN GROUPS ASSUMED DE FACTO CONTROL IN THE WAKE OF THE WITHDRAWAL OF LEBANESE SECURITY AUTHORITIES ON 23 OCTOBER. WHILE UNRWA HAS BEEN ABLE TO CONTINUE ITS WELFARE ASSISTANCE IN ALL CAMPS, ITS PALESTINIAN EMPLOYEES--EMBOLDENED BY FEDAYEEN SUPPORT--ARE DEMANDING PROGRAM CHANGES FOR WHICH FUNDS ARE NOT AVAILABLE AND WHICH MAY CREATE ADMINISTRATIVE CHAOS.

THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT IS CONCERNED THAT ITS POSITION MAY BE FURTHER ERODED SHOULD THE US CUT OFF FUNDS TO UNRWA. IT MAINTAINS THAT SUCH ACTION WOULD PROVOKE A VIOLENT PALESTINIAN REACTION AND WARNS THAT ANY PUBLICITY THAT THE US MIGHT SO ACT COULD DOOM THE CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE FEDAYEEN.

MEANWHILE, UNRWA REMAINS THE SUBJECT OF ACERBIC DEBATE IN THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE. A PALESTINIAN ARAB REPRESENTATIVE, SPEAKING UNDER RULES WHICH DID NOT CONSTITUTE RECOGNITION OF HIS STATUS, CHARGED THE ISRAELIS WITH "WAR CRIMES AND GENOCIDE." THE ALGERIAN DELEGATE DECLARED THAT THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE WERE TIRED OF THE "HUMANITARIAN HYPOCRISY" REPRESENTED BY UNRWA. THE ISRAELI DELEGATE PRAISED UNRWA AS AN ORGANIZATION, BUT ADDED THAT ARAB AGGRESSION IS THE CAUSE OF THE REFUGEE PROBLEM. HE ASKED THAT UNRWA CEASE SERVICING THE CAMPS BECAUSE THE UN "CANNOT GIVE ASSISTANCE TO PERSONS ENGAGED IN WARFARE AGAINST A MEMBER STATE."

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